

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21539C1

Currently the Department of Health and Welfare issues SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits on the first day of each calendar month. This legislation points authority to the Director of the Department at his discretion to distribute such benefits over the course of multiple days each month.

FISCAL NOTE

Implementation costs for a multi-day issuance of food stamps would be a total of \$440,000 for the first 12 months. This amount includes automation changes to the IBES system, operational costs for notifying participants and stakeholders, additional staff to manage increased phone calls and local office visits from participants to inquire and/or complain about the new process. It also includes the cost of leasing EBT card machines that will print the name of the participant and the month they will receive their benefits. There would be annual on-going operational costs of \$220,000 for staff needed to inform participants and respond to participants regarding their particular issuance day of the month. This cost also includes annual maintenance fees associated with leasing the EBT card machines.

Half of the total implementation costs and on-going operational costs would require general or dedicated funds, and the other half would be matched federal funds.

It is important to note that it would take 120 days to implement the change from the date funding is acquired.

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